

REMARKS

Claim 4 is pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 4 is amended and claim 5 is canceled. Support for the amendments to claim 4 can be found, for example, in canceled claim 5. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance in view of at least the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,712,610 (Takeichi). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Takeichi fails to disclose "the low-melting metal member having a groove provided in the center that extends in the direction of current flow that blows out as an effect of the heat-generating member generating heat," as recited in claim 4. Although the Office Action alleges that the low-melting metal piece 5 of Takeichi is equivalent to the low-melting metal member recited in claim 4, Takeichi fails to disclose that the low-melting metal piece 5 has "a groove provided in the center that extends in the direction of current flow that blows out as an effect of the heat-generating member generating heat." Importantly, Takeichi is silent regarding the specific shape of the low-melting metal piece 5 but merely describes that the low-melting metal piece may be formed of various low-melting metals conventionally used for fuse materials (Takeichi at col. 4, lines 52–55). Because Takeichi is silent as to the shape of the low-melting metal piece 5, Takeichi fails to disclose a groove in the low-melting metal piece and, accordingly, fails to disclose all of the recited features of claim 4. Applicants respectfully assert that claim 4 is patentable over Takeichi and request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claim are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jesse O. Collier
Registration No. 53,839

JAO:KRG/jnm

Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 17, 2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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